The question of exempting applications under the Irrigation Regulation from payment of court fees to which you have referred will also be considered.

58. Suggestions for improving the irrigation of lands on the western side of the Pazhayar tail-end and along the Manakkudiankal.

Mr. Kanakku Matevan Pillai Kumaraswami Pillai (Member, Agastisvaram Taluk) made certain suggestions for improving the irrigation of lands on the western side of the Pazhayar tail-end and along the Manakkudiankal. He represented that the stagnation of water in those parts caused injury to the single-crop cultivation of adjacent fields and mentioned the following as the defects which called for remedy in that connection :—

(*a*) Want of a bank on the western side of the Manakkudi lake to a length of 350 feet.

(*b*) The width of the river at its mouth where it emptied itself into the lake was very narrow, being only 20 to 50 feet in several places. The width should be at least 200 feet at the mouth.

(*c*) The lay of the salt factories, the existence of the Tengumputur *odai* and the Karayalar's bund, etc., were impediments to the free flow of water through the river.

He then spoke about the Manakkudi lake and said that it was only 500 acres in extent and that the existence of the numerous *alloms* there prevented the free flow of water and raised the water level of the *kayal* with consequent damage to wet cultivation. The Member prayed that the necessary improvements might be effected to remove the evils mentioned above.

The Member also spoke about the harm caused to cultivation by the Pillapattu dam and the Mission dam. He said that there were breaches on the western bank of the river to the north of Pillapattu dam and the consequent silting up of 15 acres of lands and the failure of crops in 30 more acres.

Dewan's reply.—You have spoken about the Pillapattu dam and the Mission dam. The Chief Engineer is of opinion that the Pillapattu dam should be lowered about 4 feet and provided with falling shutters, which will automatically open during floods and keep down the flood level in the upper reaches. The Government agree with the Chief Engineer in his opinion and will arrange to carry out his suggestion.

In regard to the Azhankal or the Manakkudiankal, the Chief Engineer is of opinion that it should be improved. The necessary steps will be taken. In regard to the restoration of the waterway of the Pazhayar between the salt pans belonging to Messrs. Karayalar and Avadhanikal, heavy compensation will have to be paid for the portions of the pans to be acquired, and the Chief Engineer considers that the present width of about 400 feet at the narrowest portion would suffice if the course of the river is drained properly, which is being now done.

59. Kottayam-Kumili and Devicolam-Peermade roads.

Mr. A. R. St. George (Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association) first spoke about the new road from Peermade to Devicolam. He stated that the work on the first mile and on 3 furlongs of the 2nd mile along the present trace had been practically finished, excepting some levelling and the construction of certain side-drains. He urged the construction of those side-drains before the monsoon set in.

As regards the further portion of the Peermade-Devicolam road from the 3rd furlong of the 2nd mile, the Member said that his Association had no objection to the cutting of the new trace as proposed by the Department of Public Works and prayed that the work might be started without delay. He believed that the Land Revenue Department had to settle the question of the compensation of the estate lands through which the trace passed, and that, until that was done and the lands handed over to the D. P. W., work on the new cutting could not be commenced. He understood

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